

Review of City Churches From Past to Present Is Given by Dr. Broomfield

Local Minister Tells of Founding of First Institutions Here.

By DR. J. C. BROOMFIELD

In reviewing the institutions that are vitally related to the life of a community the church must be placed at the head of the list.

A prominent professional man of over a half century residence in Fairmont and owner of very valuable real estate said to the writer recently:

"Take the churches out of Fairmont, and I would want to sell immediately every inch of ground I own here."

Fortunately for Fairmont, her churches have kept pace with her industrial development and they have provided for Fairmont leadership in every department of progress and uplift.

Cells of Old Churches

The pioneers in the church life of Fairmont were the Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant denominations. In 1905, the local Presbyterian congregation celebrated its centennial. Its founders were among the Barnes, Fleming and Hall families and their descendants are still identified with Presbyterianism in this section.

These families were located in Barnesville rather than in what is now known as Fairmont. It is a matter of history therefore, that the initial efforts at church organization in this section were put forth at Barnesville.

There is but little difference in the number of years that the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant forces have served the community. Both are approaching the century mark.

It is of local interest to note that when the split came in the Methodist Episcopal denomination and the defenders of "mutual rights" formed the Methodist Protestant Church, that the first reformer to be tried and expelled was the Rev. Dennis B. Dorsey, who lived in a little cottage on Quincy street near the present West Virginian Building, and who, at the time of his death, was buried in the old Fairmont Cemetery.

Repeated efforts have been made by the congregation of the Methodist Protestant Temple to locate the grave of Dr. Dorsey with a view to having the remains moved to Woodlawn Cemetery and suitable monument erected, but they have been unable to find the grave thus far.

The three denominations named may be regarded as the center of Fairmont and the work of each is outstanding. The Presbyterians worship at the corner of Jackson and Jefferson streets in one of the most modern and substantial church buildings in Northern West Virginia. From this congregation has grown the thriving Fleming Memorial Chapel at Edgemont. For over twenty years, the Rev. H. G. Stoetzer, D. D., has erected the activities of Presbyterianism in this city.

Methodist Church Grows

From the little acorn of Methodism planted in Fairmont a hundred years ago has grown five bustling Methodist congregations. Two M. E.'s two M. P.'s and one M. E. South. These congregations are all housed in modern, up-to-date houses of worship.

Twenty-six years ago the congregation of the Methodist Protestant Temple, under the pastorate of the Rev. C. E. Wilbur, D. D., Ph. D., undertook the task of

building a modern church building and the present M. P. Temple is the result. It was the only modern church structure in Fairmont for many years and its auditorium served many public purposes. Since that time, the First M. E. Church on Fairmont avenue and the Diamond Street M. E. Church on the East Side have erected beautiful buildings and the First M. P. Church is at work on plans for its new building.

The latest and now most attractive Methodist Church Building in Fairmont is that of the M. E. South, Third Street and Fairmont avenue. The building is nearing completion and its pastor, the Rev. Dr. R. T. Brown, hopes to have it dedicated on the first Sunday in August.

The present pastor of the First M. E. Church is the Rev. C. H. King, D. D., of the Diamond Street M. E. Church. The pastor of the First M. P. Church, the Rev. C. C. Lawson, and of the M. P. Temple, the Rev. J. C. Broomfield.

(The Rev. Mr. Broomfield enjoys the distinction of a pastorate that is twice as long as the longest pastorate in any Methodist Church in West Virginia. He is closing his seventeenth year.—The Editor.)

Two Baptist Churches

Then there are two Baptist churches, the First Baptist on Second Street, and the Palatine Baptist on the East Side. The pastor of the First Baptist Church the Rev. W. J. Eddy, is the dean of the ministers of Fairmont in point of years of service. His congregation is now at work on plans to celebrate in the near future the twenty-fifth anniversary of his pastorate here. The Palatine Baptist Church is at present without a pastor. Both congregations are in a flourishing condition.

There are also two Christian churches in Fairmont. The Central Christian Church, of which the Rev. J. E. Gordon is pastor, may be regarded as a progressive branch of the church while the Christian Church on the side belongs to the conservative division. Both have excellent congregations.

The Christ Episcopal Church on Washington street, whose rector is the Rev. E. S. Towson, has among its members some of the leading families of Fairmont. This congregation hopes to erect a new building in the future. A number of years ago, a lot was purchased opposite Cook Hospital on which to build a new church and the hope is expressed that the Episcopalians will soon be worshipping in a new and commodious church home.

For many years the baby in the family of churches in Fairmont was the Grace Lutheran Church. For a number of years its congregation worshipped on the third floor of the Library Building but under the efficient leadership of the late Reverend Doctor Probst, the attractive Lutheran Church building was erected at Third Street and Gaston Avenue. The Rev. Roy J. Meyer is the present pastor.

The baby is the Protestant family now is the United Brethren congregation which two years ago under the pastorate of the Rev. W. C. Wade erected its church building near the East Park school. Because of the strength of the United Brethren Church in West Virginia, the congregation is growing rapidly.

Catholic Churches
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is one of the potent factors for good in the life of Fairmont. Its late priest, the Rev.

Father Bouton, was one of the most efficient church leaders that ever served in this city. During his pastorate, the present church building and parochial school were erected and the parish house purchased. Not only among his own people, but among all classes, Father A. Bouton was held in high esteem. The Rev. P. H. Gilseman is now in charge of the parish. On Robinson street is found the Italian Catholic Church. Catholic leaders of this city are planning considerable new building for the near future.

In recounting the church forces in Fairmont, mention must be made of our Jewish friends and their organization, in which the most prominent leader is Simon Goodman.

In addition to these Protestant, Catholic and Jewish institutions, there are also three churches among the colored folks: the Trinity M. E. and the Baptist, both of Cleveland Avenue, and a mission church recently organized on Monroe street to aid in caring for the spiritual needs of the colored people.

Fairmont has reason to be proud of its churches—of their buildings, their programs and their leaders.

COMUNTZIS' STORE RUN BY EXPERTS IN TRADE

Communtzis at Main and Monroe streets was established twelve years ago by the late N. J. Communtzis and today is one of the largest and best known places of its sort in Northern West Virginia.

Communtzis manufactures fine box and loose candies, ice creams, and pastries, all of which are prepared by the most expert craftsmen of their respective lines.

Light lunches are also served and the establishment has a seating capacity of about 100. The equipment consists of twenty-four foot soda fountain with seats. The tables have a capacity of four each.

The fixtures and furniture are of handsome dark mahogany and the floor is of Italian tile.

About nine people are employed at Communtzis, and each is a specialist in his line. The pastries and breads are of the finest quality and the ice and ice creams of the most delicate and attractive flavors while the candies are such as to leave nothing desired. Best of all, everything is absolutely pure as the most sanitary methods are used throughout the entire establishment, from the kitchen and baking rooms to the restaurant and store.

The establishment occupies the entire large ground floor and basement at the corner of Monroe and Main streets, the big window display of pastries, breads, cakes, pies, candies and other delicacies, being one of the attractive sights of that section of the city.

Since the death of Mr. Communtzis about three years ago, the place has been owned by Mrs. Communtzis. It is now under the management of Louis "Tutules," formerly of Chicago, who has had many years of experience in the restaurant and confectionary line.

MONON VALLEY CO. PROGRESSIVE

Rapid Strides Made by Wholesale House Established Two Years Ago.

The importance of a city outside of its immediate confines is judged largely by the character of its wholesale establishments, for if its business men do not take advantage of its location and transportation facilities, their is little to recommend their foresight and energy.

But Fairmont stands in the front line of commercial centers in Northern West Virginia, and since the establishment of the Monon Valley Co., on April 1, 1920, its prestige as a distributing and jobbing center has been greatly enhanced.

And too, it is service that builds a business, regardless of what its nature may be. When, however, that service is given in a number of varied and necessary lines the value of the service is multiple as, consequently is the volume of business handled.

Within two years time the Monon Valley Co. has built up one of the largest wholesale establishments in this section of country, dealing in flour, feed, fruits and produce, among their leading specialties being Old Homestead flour, Gold Standard, Omar Wonder and Pillsbury's flours, Purdy margarine, Unicorn Dairy and Globe feeds. A leading specialty is made of Rainbow Creamery, that popular brand of butter being packed under the name of the Monon company.

The company occupies a large, eight story building, one of the largest in the city, which is stocked from bottom to top with a stock of the highest class of goods to be found in Northern West Virginia. The territory which it serves includes Marion and adjoining counties, and it maintains a spirit of co-operation with retailers, seeking at all times to render the best service and give satisfaction in the minutest detail.

The above facts afford impressive evidence that this institution already has established for itself an enviable place in the esteem of the people of this entire section.

It is truly a rapidly growing concern and is freely predicted that it will continue to attain an increasingly large measure in the years to come.

The establishment is modern in every respect and its management is characterized by the most advanced and successful methods.

They have large buying powers and are enabled to demand the very best of terms on all commodities in car load lots. And too, there is a spirit of co-operation in the organization that augurs well for the establishment.

L. O. Shingleton, treasurer and general manager, is one of the best posted men on market conditions in this section of West Virginia. He is a member of the wholesale firm of Shingleton Bros. at Clarksburg which was founded more than five years ago. He came to Fairmont when the present firm was organized. His ability as a business executive is demonstrated in the great big success of the Monon Valley Co., which is quite generally recognized. He is not a calamity howler, and has no patience with such an animal, being a thorough believer in progress, and practices what he preaches. A member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Fairmont, he regards nothing as being too good for the city of Fairmont, his adopted home, and stands back at nothing that means for its welfare.

S. C. Watkins, vice president, and also a leading sales man for the firm, is one of the best known men to the trade of this territory, and is likewise popular and influential in social and religious circles of the community. C. B. Holli-day, the secretary and also a salesman for the house, is an influential Kiwanian, and he too is well liked by the trade of this section and is a man of splendid capabilities.

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Among some of the old line fire insurance companies for which it acts as agent are the Hartford, the National, the Royal, the Continental, the Commercial Union Assurance and others. It also represents the Fidelity and Casualty Co. and the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Co.

This agency was established about forty years ago by F. E. Nichols, and since his death in December 1920, has been an incorporated company with H. F. Smith and Miss M. L. Nichols actively engaged in the business. The same companies which Mr. Nichols represented have been continued

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the tables and the surroundings.

The scale of prices maintained is extremely moderate, and in these days of the high cost of living, it is often real economy to eat here, rather than at home. The proprietor is most assiduous in looking after the welfare of his patrons, and insists that his assistants render the same painstaking service that he does. He believes that a satisfied customer will come again, and that he will bring his friends with him and by judging from the constantly increasing number of customers at this establishment his reasoning is not at fault, and his service shows that he strives with success to bring about this desired result.

Harvey L. Paiste, the owner and manager of this cafe, is one of the most popular business men in this section of West Virginia. He is a member of several business organizations. He is also a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, Knights of Pythias, and the B. P. O. E. Mr. Paiste is one of the few real fishermen of this section, this being his hobby outside of running "A PLACE TO EAT."

NICHOLS AGENCY HERE LONG TIME

One of Fairmont's greatest aids in securing insurance protection is the F. E. Nichols Insurance Agency, located at 201 Masonic Temple, Jefferson street.

The company represents many leading fire insurance companies as well as several casualty and bonding companies and a number of automobile insurance concerns.

Among some of the old line fire insurance companies for which it acts as agent are the Hartford, the National, the Royal, the Continental, the Commercial Union Assurance and others. It also represents the Fidelity and Casualty Co. and the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Co.

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